

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DODE-00 PM-04 CIAE-00 INR-07
NSAE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 L-03 TRSE-00
PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 /053 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/CAR:JETHYDEN:NHM

APPROVED BY ARA:WLUERS

ARA/CAR:TJCHEAVNER (DRAFT)

DOD/ISO:JLMAY (SUBSTANCE)

PM/ISO:JKIMBALL (SUBSTANCE)

-----302151Z 084359 /62

O 302135Z APR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY NASSAU IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 098432

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, BF

SUBJECT: MILITARY FACILITIES NEGOTIATIONS

REF: NASSAU 602

1. WE FEEL THAT AMBASSADOR HAS MADE ABUNDANTLY CLEAR TO PRIME MINISTER AND FOREIGN MINISTER THAT EMBASSY IS NOT SOURCE OF LEAK. FURTHER EXCHANGE IN THIS CHANNEL DOES NOT SEEM NECESSARY AND WE FEAR IT COULD FURTHER EXACERBATE SITUATION.

2. WE RECOGNIZE POTENTIAL PROBLEM IF OPPOSITION POLITICIANS SUCCEED IN AROUSING PUBLIC OPINION AND FORCING GCOB INTO DEFENSIVE POSTURE. RATHER THAN ADDRESSING OUR CONCERNs TO GCOB, IT WOULD SEEM TO BE MORE EFFECTIVE TO SET PUBLIC RECORD STRAIGHT. REQUEST EMBASSY VIEWS ON USEFULNESS

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OF PUBLIC STATEMENT ALONG LINES PARA THREE. EMBASSY MAY WISH TO DISCUSS STATEMENT WITH GCOB PRIOR TO ISSUANCE.

3. SUBSTANCE OF PROPOSED STATEMENT:
-- AS NOTED IN RECENT TRIBUNE ARTICLES, THERE HAVE BEEN DISCUSSIONS CONCERNING U.S. MILITARY FACILITIES IN THE BAHAMAS.

E DO NOT KNOW THE SOURCE OF THE TRIBUNE'S INFORMATION, BUT, AS NOTED IN THOSE ARTICLES, IT WAS NOT THE AMERICAN EMBASSY. IN THE INTEREST OF KEEPING THE RECORD STRAIGHT, WE BELIEVE THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS TO BE IN ORDER.

-- FROM THE U.S. POINT OF VIEW, THESE DISCUSSIONS, WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN COMPLETED, ARE PROGRESSING SATISFACTORILY.

-- THIS MATTER IS NOT A POINT OF CONTENTION BETWEEN OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS, AND U.S./BAHAMIAN RELATIONS ARE EXCELLENT.

CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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